

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leroy D. Walls
President
David Bequeath
Vice President
Timothy Newman
Secretary
John R. Dively
Asst. Secretary
Robert Guyer
Treasurer

Curtis Brant
Merle Helsel

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Emergency Outage Number
814-766-3221
1-800-270-3177

From the General Manager/CEO



Interested in a seat on your co-op board?

By Mark Morrison

EIGHTY years ago, local residents wanted the convenience of electricity. However, private power companies weren't interested in providing power to these rural residents because there was not enough profit for their stockholders when the residents lived so far apart. So area residents decided to organize and provide the wonder of electricity themselves. New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (REC), a not-for-profit business, was established by members to serve members.

The membership selects directors to serve in each of the seven director areas that are nearly equal in population. Directors — trustees on behalf of the cooperative's consumer-members — are elected at the annual meeting each year.

When you become a consumer-member of New Enterprise REC, you share in the benefits and responsibilities of the cooperative for as long as you remain a consumer-member. Any profits are returned to consumer-members in the form of capital credits.

The director area up for re-election this year is Area 4. It is represented by Leroy Walls, who has held the seat since 2000.

If you are interested in a seat on your co-op board and meet the qualifications, you could be eligible for nomination in your area. A vote of the consumer-members attending the annual meeting on June 12 will determine who serves on the board for the three-year term.

Area 4 can be described as Liberty Township and a portion of Hopewell Township in Bedford County, including Pinchot Road, Ravers Gap Road, Raven Run Road, Sugar Camp Road, Mable City, Yellow Creek area, Jacks Corner, along with the northern ends of Plank Road and Polecat Road.

If you live full time in Area 4 and are interested in becoming a director candidate, contact or stop by the cooperative office and we can discuss the process. Not sure which area you are located in? A detailed map is available at the office for your review.

Should being a director not appeal to you, you still have an important role in the operation of the cooperative. You can nominate and vote for other consumer-members for a director position. The bylaws of the cooperative outline the qualifications and procedure for the selection of directors. There are certain time frames throughout the procedure that must be followed. The board of directors will select a Nominating Committee in March. The Nominating Committee will prepare a list of nominations and post it at the cooperative office.

Any 15 or more consumer-members acting together may make additional nominations after the list is posted. Consumer-members attending the New Enterprise REC Annual Meeting may make additional nominations from the floor and will vote to determine who serves on the board for a three-year term. 

Easy steps to greater efficiency

By Anne Prince

DO YOU want to save money and electricity, but have limited time, money and patience? According to the Department of Energy, a “typical American family” spends nearly \$2,000 per year on their home energy bills. Much of that money, however, is wasted through leaky windows or ducts, old appliances, or inefficient heating and cooling systems.

Luckily, there are several relatively easy ways to save energy without a substantial commitment of time and money. These efforts will help you save whether you own or rent an older or newly constructed home. And, you won't have to hire a specialist or call in a favor from someone who is handy with tools to help you.

Where to start

According to *Money Magazine*, “improving the envelope” of your home is a good place to start. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind vibrations can loosen up even a tight home, increasing air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly, and duct work can spring leaks, wasting cooled and heated air. By placing weather stripping and caulk around



windows and doors, you can keep cool air inside during warm months and prevent chilly air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans, and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and creates greater efficiency. Apply weather stripping around overlooked spaces like your attic hatch or pull-down stairs.

Replacing incandescent bulbs with

LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency and is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bill. Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED bulbs have an estimated operational life span of an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 hours compared to 1,000 hours of a typical incandescent. According to the Department of Energy, by replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the Energy Star rating, you can save \$75 each year.

Wrapping up savings

Installing a blanket around your water heater could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 7 to 16 percent in water heating costs, according to the Department of Energy. For a small investment of about \$30, you can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets and install them in about one hour. On a safety note, the Department of Energy recommends that you not set the thermostat above 130 degrees Fahrenheit on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket; the higher temperature setting could cause the wiring to overheat.

Given that a large portion of your



monthly energy bill goes toward heating and cooling your home, it makes sense to ensure your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is performing at an optimal level. Checking, changing, or cleaning your filter extends the life of your HVAC system and saves you money.

Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Otherwise, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs; lowered system efficiency; and costly duct cleaning or replacement. Many HVAC professionals recommend cleaning the system filters monthly. A simple task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently, keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Take control of your energy savings

Take a look at your programmable thermostat. When was the last time

you checked to make sure it was programmed for the current season and family schedule? This is one of the best energy-saving tools at your fingertips. It enables you to fine tune the temperature during particular hours of the day. Many models allow you to differentiate between weekday and weekend schedules, and internet-connected thermostats can learn your schedule and make adjustments automatically. Most models come with an override option, so you can make manual adjustments without losing overall programming. You can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

Remember, there are easy steps you can take now to improve the energy efficiency of your home. 

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Reporting an outage

- ▶ **Check your fuses or circuit breakers.**
- ▶ **Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.**
- ▶ **Call New Enterprise REC at 814-766-3221 or toll-free at 1-800-270-3177.**
- ▶ **If you are calling during normal business hours (7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.), press 3 to report an outage. For calls after hours, listen to the message, and leave the account name and physical address of who is out of power, time the power went out, and a contact phone number where someone can be reached for additional information.**
- ▶ **If power returns for a short while and then fails again, please call again; we may think the problem is corrected.**
- ▶ **Be patient. If the outage occurs during a storm, many people are trying to call our office. Your call is important to us so please keep trying.**
- ▶ **Assume all power lines are energized and dangerous. Even lines that are de-energized could become energized at any time.**
- ▶ **Never touch a downed power line! Never touch a person or object that is touching a power line. A downed power line may not be a dead line. It could cause serious injury or death.**
- ▶ **If someone is injured as a result of a contact with electric current, do not try to assist him or her. You could be injured or killed. Call 911.**

Disconnection to resume

During the winter months, New Enterprise REC doesn't disconnect accounts for non-payment.

Disconnection for non-payment will begin again on April 3, 2018. A disconnection message will be printed on the bills received in March and a separate disconnect notice will be sent.

Do not delay calling Brawna at extension 4602 at the office should you not be able to pay the full past-due balance before April 3. It is best to call as soon as you get the billing statement or the disconnect notice.

A signed, written agreement needs to be in place before April 2. No agreements will be made April 2 or after. Once an agreement is signed, the agreement must be followed as stated. If a payment is missed or a partial payment is made, the agreement is void, and disconnection will occur.

Should you be having trouble paying your bill, you may wish to call your County Energy Assistance office. They are scheduled to remain open until April 6, 2018.

Below are the Energy Assistance Office telephone numbers:

Bedford County Energy Assistance – 814-623-6127 or 800-542-8584
Fulton County Energy Assistance – 717-485-3151 or 800-222-8563
Huntingdon County Energy Assistance – 814-643-1170 or 800-237-7674

NEW POLICY FOR RECONNECTION FOR NON-PAYMENT

Effective January 2018, New Enterprise REC employees will no longer reconnect an account disconnected for non-payment after regular business hours (7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

Value of electricity continues to shine

By Derrill Holly

WHETHER you pay your bill in person, by mail or online today, paying your monthly bill does a lot more than just keep the lights on.

Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. Consider all the necessities and conveniences we enjoy in part because of the power lines running to the electric meter outside your home.

Count up your televisions, desktop, laptop and tablet computers, printers, your gaming consoles, music and video players, and personal assistant devices. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working comes from New Enterprise REC.

Have you looked around your kitchen lately? Between the coffee maker and toaster and the microwave and electric skillet, a lot of us have added several other modern small appliances.

If you've got a craft nook or workshop, the power tools and machines you use to cut and shape your projects are either plugged in or recharged from the outlets connecting your household wiring to New Enterprise REC.

You use electricity to run all these devices. The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it's still a bargain, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly.

Since 2011, medical care, residential rental rates, and education have increased at rates of 3 percent or more per year. Butter, meat, and egg prices have been up by more than 1 to 2 percent annually, and even bread costs have risen better than a half point on average.

Electricity costs rise about 1 percent a year, but co-ops across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household since 2010. That means we're doing more things with less energy.

Kilowatt-hour use per household dropped by 8 percent between 2010 and 2016, slightly less than the

9 percent decline reported by all electric utilities nationwide.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, and we're always looking for ways to work with you to make it even better. That's why New Enterprise REC urges energy efficiency, encourages you to look for Energy Star® appliances, and promotes technology designed to give members more control over their electricity use.

That's good for families, couples and individuals trying to live within their budgets. And it's going to become even more significant as digital devices and internet-connected technologies become even more important in our lives.

The average home now has 10

Wi-Fi-connected devices. That number is expected to explode to 50 by 2020. Technology and the gateways that keep it working use electricity, so you'll depend upon New Enterprise REC for more than the power that keeps the lights on. That's why we're always working to provide service that's reliable, keep it affordable, and make it even more valuable to our member — you, your family and your neighbors. ☀

Derrill Holly writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Improve your air conditioner's efficiency

Air conditioners use a lot of electricity, consuming the most in a summertime heat wave. Without regular service to your air conditioner, its efficiency can fall by as much as half, especially when it works overtime in the summer heat. However, proper maintenance and repair on your air conditioner will save you money and can extend its life for roughly 15 years.

Air conditioners are complicated and require specialized tools to service them. It is best to hire an air-conditioning technician. An annual tune-up of your air conditioner averages approximately \$50 to \$100, but can reduce your cooling costs by 5 percent or more. Now is the time to get a headstart on scheduling your service call before the servicemen get busy with other calls.

Here are some maintenance tips that should be performed by a professional:

- ▶ Inspect the ductwork for loose joints and other leaks. Air leaks waste energy and should be sealed with duct mastic, not duct tape.
- ▶ Check hose connections for leaks, and make sure the condensation tube is draining freely.
- ▶ Clean the blower so that it can move air more efficiently.
- ▶ Oil the motors, and check the belts for tightness and wear.
- ▶ Verify the air flow by measurement. Improper air flow can affect efficiency.
- ▶ Clean the indoor evaporator and outdoor condenser coil. If it doesn't have an access panel, have one installed.
- ▶ Check the refrigerant charge and adjust if needed. Remember that the law requires refrigerant to be recaptured when units are recharged.
- ▶ Straighten any bent fins on the condenser and evaporator coils.
- ▶ Inspect the electric terminals.
- ▶ Make sure to clean and tighten the connections.
- ▶ Inspect the thermostat to ensure that it provides a reliable reading.
- ▶ Install a programmable thermostat to adjust your home's temperature automatically. This thermostat increases the temperature setting while you're gone and then returns the home to a more comfortable setting before you return.